

Office of the Registrar

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30 November 2022

Beryl Beauchamp

By email: [fyi-request-20922-2567f57c@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-20922-2567f57c@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Beryl

**Official Information Act request 22.62 Brett Berquist travel**

I refer to the Official Information Act (the Act) request dated 20 October 2022 for information relating to Brett Berquist's travel. You have requested the following:

1. *How many international trips has Brett Berquist taken on behalf of the University between October 2021 and October 2022?*

Please note that Brett Berquist began his role as Assistant Vice-Chancellor Engagement in January 2022, therefore no travel on behalf of the University took place before this time. Brett has taken 2 international trips in this time on behalf of the University.

Part of his role as Assistant Vice-Chancellor Engagement is to engage with the international community and to encourage prospective students and staff to join UC.

2. *The itinerary for each trip.*

Please see an outline of the itineraries for the relevant trips below. Some annual leave was taken whilst overseas. Information relating to personal travel is withheld under s 9(2)(a) to protect Brett's privacy. The University has considered the public interest and is of the view that it does not outweigh the privacy interest in this matter.

European trip:

- The week of 4 September, in London, Brett met with Times Higher Education leadership, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Universities UK, Association of Commonwealth Universities, Oxford University, Cambridge University, leadership of the PIE News, More consultancy, Public First Consultancy.
- On Friday 9 September, he attended the 2022 PIEoneer Awards Gala.
- Over the following weekend, he travelled to Tarragona Spain to attend meetings of the C33international education network.
- The week of 12 September, Brett participated in the European Association of International Education conference in Barcelona. This included meetings with the NZ IE sector and Education New Zealand. Business and partnership meetings and attendance of conference sessions.
- Brett took annual leave from 17 September and returned to New Zealand on 26 September 2022.

Australian trip:

- On 14 October, Brett travelled to Melbourne.
- On 18 October, Brett travelled from Melbourne to the Gold Coast for the Australian International Education Conference (AIEC).
- On 24 October, Brett returned to Christchurch.
- During this time in Australia, as well as attending the AIEC conference, Brett met with staff from the University of Melbourne, UniLodge, Australian Education Management Group, IDP (International Education Specialists, SannamS4/Acumen, Adventus, Chronicle for Higher Education, and QS.

There are privacy considerations regarding the individual people that he met whilst representing UC overseas. Their names and contact details are withheld under s 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect their privacy. The names of UC staff below Senior Leadership Team (SLT) level have also been withheld under s 9(2)(a) to protect their privacy. Those below the SLT level do not have a public facing element in their role, whereas those in SLT have a public facing element in their role representing UC in the wider community. The University has considered the public interest and is of the view that it does not outweigh the privacy interest in this matter.

Given the public interest in a Senior Leadership Team member's travel, a summary of the types of officials that Brett met with is as follows: International student agents, diplomats at embassies and high commissions, academics at a variety of universities and staff members of higher education ranking companies. Describing the types of roles these individuals carry out rather than naming them protects the individual's right to privacy whilst providing transparency on the type of work and meeting attendances that was carried out by Brett on behalf of the University.

3. *The total cost of each trip.*

The trip to Spain and England in September 2022: \$13 823.33.

The trip to Australia cost in October 2022: \$ 2658.74.

4. *The proposal documents or authorising documents allowing each trip and any reports produced in relation to each trip.*

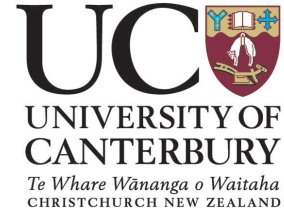
Please find attached the approval for travel documents.

The reports for the trips contain commercial information pertinent to UC and others, which are therefore withheld under sections 9(2)(i) and 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act. The provision of accommodation, research and laboratory facilities provides more opportunities for prospective and current University of Canterbury students. This assists with student recruitment, allowing more fees to be collected and therefore more revenue to be realised. The prejudice from this information being released is that the University needs to be able to maintain the ability to establish commercial contracts on the best terms available with a wide variety of partners and contractors. The risk of these being released publicly would threaten the University's ability to maintain effective relationships with third parties in the future, expose their business IP and other commercially sensitive materials, and undermine public confidence in the University as a fair and equitable partner.

However, given the public interest in the work of a member of a SLT member, a summary of the topics in the reports is provided below. Discussions were had with those outlined in question 2 regarding strategies for fundraising and marketing internationally, opportunities for collaboration regarding UC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the direction of International Education in a post pandemic world, international student accommodation and support and opportunities for jointly delivered programmes with UC.

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5. *A list of any trips planned in the next year and any proposal or authorising documents related to planned trips.*

Brett does not currently have any trips planned for 2023 at the time of this response. Therefore, this information is refused under s 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Claire O'Connell'.

Claire O'Connell

Information Compliance Officer

**Attachment(s):**

Travel approval documents